



Pass Christian, Mississippi

The

# Tricentennial

Volume 2, Issue Four

March 10, 1999

## Grand Marshal St. Paddy's Day Parade



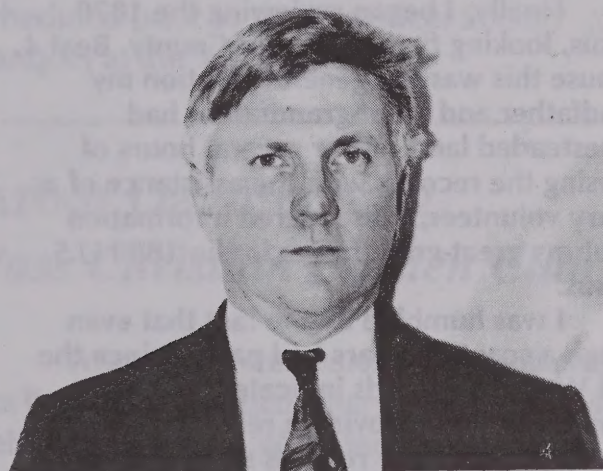
### GOVERNOR WILLIAM F. WINTER

William Winter, native of Grenada, Mississippi, earned his Bachelor's and Law degrees at the University of Mississippi. He served in World War II and the Korean Conflict before performing his elected duties in the House of Representatives, as Tax Collector, State Treasurer, Lieutenant Governor and Governor (1980-1984) of Mississippi.

He has been active in many organizations and state commissions in which he has distinguished himself. While Governor, he was responsible for the passage of the comprehensive Education Reform Act of 1982 which catapulted Mississippi as a leader in the national effort to improve education.

An avid historian, Governor Winter is a contributing author to *History of Mississippi*, *Yesterday's Constitution Today* and *Mississippi Heroes*.

He is married to Elise Varner and has three daughters.



### Leo "Chipper" McDermott

Alderman-at-Large and all-around-involved since winning his election, Chipper is energetically active and generally gets things done by sheer exuberance. As Grand Marshal for the St. Pat Parade, he is proud to say he is 100% IRISH from his father Leo McDermott and his mother Myrtle Spence.

After graduating from Pass High and the University of Southern Mississippi, he has been employed by financial institutions. His wife is former Jeanie Bishop and their daughter is 4-year-old, Emily.

When asked how he derived the name of "Chipper," he replied that one of his school teachers called him Chip and when his mother got aggravated with him he scolded him by calling him "CHIPPER."



# TRACING MY ANCESTOR'S FOOTSTEPS IN SOUTHWEST MISSISSIPPI

*Part Two -- by Philip Terrell, Ph.D.*

*Superintendent of Schools, Pass Christian*

Pondering over U.S. Census Reports, the 1900 census did not reveal any information pertaining to my family history, and I was quickly made aware that the 1890 census had been destroyed and was unavailable. So, as I moved to the 1880 census, I knew that this census record would very well be my last chance to locate information about my great-grandfather. Very few African Americans were listed in the official U.S. census records prior to 1870; and the 1870 census, due to such vast migration and movement of newly freed men, is somewhat incomplete.

Finally, I began reviewing the 1870 census, looking first in Lincoln County, Beat 4, because this was the general location my grandfather and great-grandfather had homesteaded land. After several hours of perusing the records with the assistance of a library volunteer, I discovered information about my great-grandfather in the 1880 U.S. Census.

I was humbled by the fact that even though a scant 15 years had passed since the Civil War, the records indicated that my grandfather was enjoying a relatively prosperous life. The records show that my grandfather, Jerry Terrell, was 40 years of age at the time, which placed his date of birth as 1840. His wife, Mary, was listed as 35 years of age. At that time, they had nine children, excluding Frederick, who was born in 1882, and Richard, my grandfather, who was born in 1887. The census record showed that my great-grandfather's occupation was that of a farmer and that Mary, his wife, was "keeping house."

After learning a little more about my great-grandfather, Jerry Terrell, from the census records, I felt a strong desire to learn more about him as an individual. Therefore, I journeyed to the Lincoln County Courthouse in Brookhaven, and was able to research, pinpoint and acquire a legal description of the land he originally homesteaded. Since Lincoln County

was created as late as 1870, this was very easily done. There were not many entries during this period of time. Where I previously thought my great-grandfather homesteaded only 40 acres, this research revealed that he had homesteaded nearly four times that much: 157 acres!

With this information, I was able to write to the U.S. Department of Interior to ascertain if they, in fact, would have any information about my grandfather. Again to my surprise, the records were still on file.

Ten days later, I received a package from the U.S. Department of Interior containing the records, which included some details about my great-grandfather's life. (Admittedly, I was impressed with the expediency with which the Department of Interior responded to my request!) Specifically, the records revealed that my grandfather and his family first appeared on the land on January 19, 1876, and that by 1881, five years after the original settlement, Jerry Terrell's improvements of the property included the construction of "a dwelling house, meat house, kitchen, stable, two corn cribs and a cotton crib." To my amusement, my great-grandfather placed a value of \$250.00 on his improvements.

During this same five-year period, Jerry Terrell testified for the record that "he had cleared 30 acres and had planted and harvested five crops." The documents from the Department of the Interior also revealed, through the required testimony of witnesses, that my great-grandfather was of good character. In fact, one witness, Austin Dean, was quoted as saying, "I have been acquainted with Jerry since 1866."

Due to slavery, most African Americans find it extremely difficult to obtain information on family history prior to 1865. However, I continue to investigate my great-grandfather's life as the remaining historical documents reveal his history.

In addition, I am encouraged that immediately after slavery my great-grandfather apparently emerged as a successful and prosperous newly freed man.

*(Continued on Page 3)*



(Continued from Page 2)

But now I have more questions about my family history than ever before. And, finally, I think I am close to locating the specific geographical area where my great-grandfather, Jerry Terrell, labored in bondage, and maybe the name of a great-granddaughter of the original slave owner. Once I locate this information, as well as information about my mother's side of the family, a more complete picture of my family history will come into focus. And, honestly, I can't wait.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** *Philip Terrell is originally from Bay St. Louis, and at present lives in Pass Christian with his family. Currently, Terrell is Superintendent of Pass Christian Public School District and is active in various civic and community initiatives along the Coast.*

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## **Historical Society to Host Former Governor William F. Winter**

Limited seats are available for the Tuesday, March 30 banquet honoring d'Iberville's return from the Mississippi River. Historian and former governor, William F. Winter will speak on the history of the area. It is advised that interested persons contact John Lutenbacher, Society President, at 452-9296.

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## **St Paddy's Day Grand Marshal**

Chipper McDermott is urging all Pass residents to turn out on Sunday, March 14 at War Memorial startup at 1:00pm or any place along the Scenic route to Miramar. Wear "Green" and watch, or better yet, wear "Green" and Strut with the best of the rest!

"Chipper" McDermott is also heading up the annual Pass Christian "Blessing of the Fleet." He is putting out a call for volunteers to make it a "Better than Ever" event. Call him at 452-2952 with your ideas and participation.

## **CELEBRITY REENACTMENTS**

At the West Harbor parking lot, living history reenactments will take place starting at 5:00 pm. Pass School teachers Al Roughton and Tim Ladner promise an educational and heritage presentation ranging with reenactments of d'Iberville's landing ashore at Pass Christian followed by Nicholas Christian Ladner, Juan Cuevas, and Dr. Flood.

Participating are USM Professor Pat Smith, Senator Scottie Cuevas, Senator Dirk Dedeaux, and Representative Jim Simpson.

Fireworks will follow. This event is scheduled prior to the Historical Society Banquet at the Yacht Club.

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## **Arbor Day Planting Pass Christian Garden Club**

Arbor Day ceremonies were conducted at the Pass Christian Elementary School on Friday, February 12, 1999. Wes Jones donated and planted a Dwarf Magnolia tree as he instructed the several classes of students in the care of it. Adele Bielenburg gave the blessing as Mayor Billy McDonald led the Pledge to the Flag. Arbor Day chairperson, Connie Boudreaux introduced the guests for the occasion as Pam Williams received the Tree City plaque for the City. A colonial type herbal garden was planted around the tree honoring first president George Washington by representatives of the Pass Christian Garden Club. This was the first of several events in the process of certifying Pass Christian as a *George Washington Community*.



# THE GOTHIC STORE

by Guy C. Kraus

Louis E. Pradat was a Gulf Coast merchant and businessman. John Lang, a contemporary Pass Christian businessman of Pradat, mentioned him in his gulf coast memoirs, A History of Harrison County, as being one of several merchants during the Confederate War period that he knew. Harrison County courthouse records show that Pradat owned various properties along the coast. Records also show that in November 1860, he and his wife Caroline apparently sold the Gothic Store property for \$4,069 to New Orleans merchants Paul and Henry Tricou, who operated under the name of P. Tricou & Son.

The Gothic Store evidently sold general merchandise as well as war-time Confederate scrip issuances. Pradat continued to operate the store in his name issuing scrip in denominations of ten cents, twenty-five cents, fifty cents, and one dollar. In addition, he had patriotic envelopes (covers) printed and sold them to his customers as illustrated by Benjamin Wishnietsky's beautifully illustrated work displayed in Confederate Patriotic Covers and their Usages.

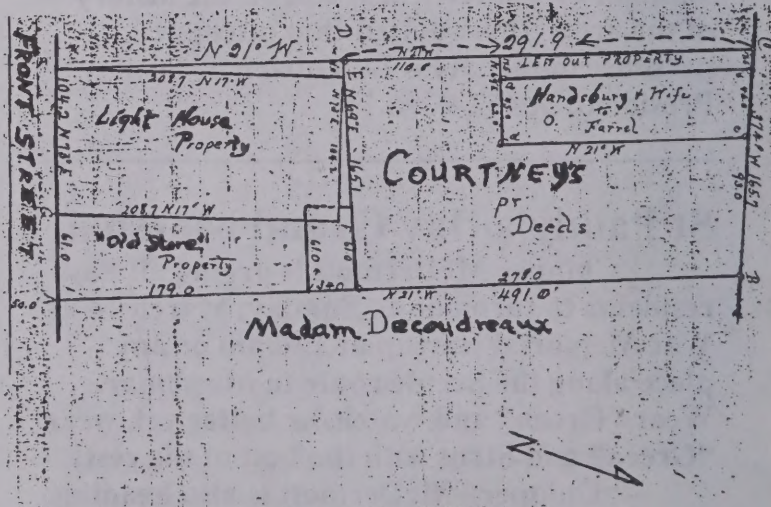
However, none of the discovered covers are known to be franked (issued) from Pass Christian, but an eleven star national flag cover from Shieldsborough (Bay St. Louis) is illustrated in one sample. --And, another illustrated issue exhibits an eleven star flag with *7th Regiment Mississippi Volunteers, Co. "C"* as conveyed to a Capt. F.F. Jones.

The Gothic Store was located on Front Street bounded on the west by the lighthouse property. Deed research verifies that the store was conveyed from Pradat to Tricou in 1860 as quit claimed in 1870. Russell Rulau's U.S. Merchant Tokens 1845 - 1860, mentions that Paul Tricou was a New Orleans hatter in

partnership with a man named Albert during the 1850s. In 1853, they issued tokens under the name of Albert & Tricou. J.J. Albert issued New Orleans scrip under the name *Great Emporium of French Hats*, which was located at 33 Charters Street.

As a point of interest, due to war time shortages, paper was in short supply, so unused documents were simply turned over and the reverse were recycled through the printing press. The result is that Pradat's scrip and patriotic covers are rare and are much desired by collectors. One would be hard pressed, given a lifetime to acquire one specimen of each scrip denomination and cover types in a single collection.

*(About the Author - Guy C. Kraus. Originating from New Orleans, with dual residence in Pass Christian, he was active in Real Estate and Construction. As a graduate of the University of Mississippi, he resides at his refurbished family cottage of over 40 years. He is in process of publishing a book on Mississippi's Obsolete Paper Money in addition to writing a fiction novel.)*



This deed plat was found in the Gulfport Courthouse showing the original lot layout of the Lighthouse Lot and the Gothic Store Lot. The other properties were acquired from the Courtenay family in 1908 prior to building the Pass Christian High School.



## Order your T-shirt

May 8, 1999



Memorial Park  
Pass Christian

Return form to : Tricentennial Committee  
P O Box 354  
Pass Christian, MS 39571

Quantity

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

S \_\_\_\_\_

M \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

L \_\_\_\_\_

XL \_\_\_\_\_

All sizes are adult sizes

Cost: \$12.00

Make checks payable to: Tricentennial Committee

Note in "For" space: Jazz in the Pass

Deadline: April 2, 1999

Call Ms Dedeaux for delivery info 586-0290

There are a number of scheduled events remaining for the year as well as others contemplated. In truth some of our ardent active folks are getting tired and would like to be refreshed by new participants. This is the year we have been planning for and we would be delighted to have you step forward and do your stuff.

Adele Bielenberg has not missed a meeting or an event. We won't mention her age, but she will be celebrating her 75th year as a graduating alumna at the next Pass High Alumni Reunion in April.

## Jazz in the Pass

The "Jazz in the Pass" Music Festival scheduled for Sunday, May 8, 1999 is moving along. This event has been in planning since May 1998 and in spite of the extended illness of its chairperson, Jennie Lou Mintz, we are excited with her progress in confirming six hours of jazz music programming. This includes a one hour performance by the students of the Pass Christian School System with their special Jazz Ensemble. Four adult professional groups have volunteered to play at no cost in addition to commitments of support from Ronnie Kole and Pete Fountain. We highly congratulate Mrs. Mintz and her committee for their successes to date.

Ron "Cadillac" Henry assures us of a spectacular old-time Jazz session, "*jus' like the Captain use to play it!*" He refers to world famous Captain John Handy, who is also noted for the first Jazz Funeral in Mississippi, which was staged right here in Pass Christian.

The all-day affair, 11 AM until 7 PM, will be filled with activity, music, food, and fun. Now, the nitty-gritty details need to be brought together and handled. New, Fresh, Volunteers are needed to get involved! Jennie Lou -- needs YOU! Call her at 452-7779.

## Call for Volunteers

The Tricentennial Committee has been in action for nearly a year and a half. It consists of a Board of Directors, an Executive Committee, several Sub-committees, and special Event committees. All are volunteers and have diligently given of their time and service. We are very grateful to those of you who even though cannot give of your time have cared enough to send in contributions to allay the cost of the newsletter which is our only source of communication.

We have benefitted extremely well from the support of Mayor Billy McDonald and the aldermen; Chipper McDermott, Mike Antoine, Vonnie Bodenschatz, Jeff Emerson, and Margaret Jean Kalif.



## Annual Spring Pilgrimage

March 18th - March 27th, 1999

Pass Christian and Pass Christian Isles Garden Clubs will celebrate the pilgrimage on Friday March 19. Opening Day Flower Show and Exhibitions will be held at the Historic Train Depot in Bay St. Louis. Anyone interested in the full coastal schedule can get a flyer from the Chamber of Commerce, or call 1-800-466-9048. All events are free.

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## NEW COMMITTEE FORMED

A George Washington Community Certification committee has been formed by the Tricentennial Committee Board of Directors. General guidelines require that four scheduled events are necessary. The first event has been completed. Now all we need is a fresh group of volunteers to step up to the plate. Please call Dan Ellis at 452-3138 for further info.

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## Around Town

On the Ballroom dancing scene is **Angela Brown**, the only student from Our Lady Academy to brush shoulders with the "Coast's best" in Tango, Waltz, Mambo, and Swing. Angela is hoping to be one of the few Freshmen in the first line-up at USM Gulf Coast.

Twenty-three year old **Chantel Smith** has been a teller at Hancock Bank for the past four months and has one of those eager-to-serve qualities in addition to her natural beauty. After graduating from Long Beach High School, she spent two years with her Air Force Senior Airman husband in Italy. Now, she is glad to be back home where she can raise her son and daughter in her home town.

**Karlan Scott** has been taking one stride at a time in upward promotions at the Jitney food center. His cheery nature is welcome to most shoppers.

George Watson called to state that **Eugenia Saucier** is very much alive while performing community chores.

## Mardi Gras HiLite

The Tricentennial Float was awarded First Place honor for a Local Organization. The many hours put forth by the construction and artwork committee headed by Dana Dedeaux and Margie Hamilton paid off.

### A DECADE OF MARDI GRAS - FUTURE FAT TUESDAYS

2000 MARCH 7	2005 FEB. 8
2001 FEB. 27	2006 FEB. 28
2002 FEB. 12	2007 FEB. 20
2003 MARCH 4	2008 FEB. 5
2004 FEB. 24	2009 FEB. 24

**THE 1999 MARDI GRAS WAS AS EARLY IN THE YEAR IT CAN GET.**

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## Billy's Quirky Corner

The three Pass Christian boys who all graduated the same year (1938) from West Point were William Rhyne, Deloge Brown, and Wallace Ford. Rhyne and Ford had also graduated from Pass High School. J.J. Hayden called in revealing the right answers.

**Billy's next question** -- "Who were the two Pass "Tree Sitters" lasting the longest?" **HINT** -- Clay Rhyne fell from his perch after 92 hours. The two remaining were shooting for 300 hours. While in their roost, they were cheered on with soft drinks, ice cream, watermelons, cakes, peaches, plums, and candies. Call Billy Bourdin with your response.

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## Quarter for your Thoughts!

Delaware Quarters are filtering into the Coast cash registers as the new monetary exchange to replace the earlier, heavier "two-bits" coinage. However, the Eagle-back quarter will take a while to be replaced. The "50-State Quarter Program" was approved by Congress in 1997. George Washington remains on the face with each state to be represented on the flip-side and will be minted and issued in the order that they were admitted into the Union or as in the order that they ratified the Declaration of Independence. Delaware was the first ratification in 1787. As each State is minted, there will be 500 to 700 million coins cut with their own tail-side design as approved by each. Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, and Connecticut will be distributed by year-end.

As the 20th state to be admitted, "Mississippi Quarters" will not be distributed until 2002 or 2003.



## OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERSHIPS

Even though our Distribution Department resisted handling other than 39571 mailings, the requests for out of town memberships has increased. The following is a sample letter which comes our way.

From Catherine McDonald now of Huntsville, AL. Enclosed with her check for \$25, she related that following the death of her husband, Frank, she move to Alabama with her sister. She remembers her 30 year teaching career in PC Elementary and her 50 years of residence in the Pass and wishes that she were here to celebrate in the upcoming events with her friends, Julia Cerra, and others.

After reading about Billy Bourdin's interest in computers, Catherine exclaimed that if Inez Bourdin were alive, computers would have been part of his business a long time ago because she had a way of getting things done.

Catherine further compliments the "new people" who have become involved in the Tricentennial happening.

--And from ALL of us, Catherine, we thank you and send our Blessings!

### New Memberships January - February 1999

#### Individuals & Families

David & Kay André  
Carroll V. Bellau  
Blackie & Brenda Blackwell  
Cornelia C., Boudreaux  
Billy Bourdin  
Capt. J.W. & Sandra Clark  
Richard & Peggy Cromwell  
Helen Davis  
Donald DeMetz  
Charlie & Marcia DeMetz  
Dave & Jane Dennis  
Jack L. Donnow  
Warren & Lynn Doussan  
John & Estella Drevar  
E.S. Duffy  
Katherine H. Floyd  
Lorraine D. Folse  
Margaret Gambrell  
Dennis Garland  
Mr. Mrs. Denby Garrison  
Elizabeth P. Gould  
Martha M. Grant  
Evelyn A. Gregory  
Marjorie M. Hammons  
Zett & Malee Hearin  
Dorothy C. Heiss  
Patricia N. Hill  
H. Book Hopkins  
Stanhope & Ann Hopkins  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Hyatt  
Mrs. James Jacobs  
Sally & Wayne James  
Chales & Audrey Jarreau  
Homer & Connie Jenkins  
C. Randall Jones

Mary J. Jones  
Polly Justice  
Margaret Jean Kalif  
Marguerite Kalif  
Ralph H. Ladner  
Marie & Warren LeRuth  
Willa Lizana  
Barbara G. Lynch  
Roland & Frances Martin  
Laurie S. Matkin  
Neil & Joyce Mearns  
Chipper McDermott  
Billy & Elaine McDonald  
Catherine McDonald  
Bodie & Danielle Michell  
Bob & Jennie Lou Mintz  
Tommy Munro  
Herman & Leada Niolet  
Elaine P. Norcross  
Kay Ruth Norton  
Edward R. Orfila  
Adair & Lynne Pedrick  
Dr. & Mrs. Roy Pepper  
Shannon Pickich  
John S. Pulkowski  
Mrs. O.H. Rhodes Jr.  
Lucimarian & Larry Roberts  
Gene J. Rogers  
Randolph P. Rogers  
Doris I. Roofner  
David Sawyer  
Georgia & Norman Sawyer  
Rev. Bernard W. Schmaltz Jr.  
Mary E. Schultz  
Lynn M. Steube  
Eugene H. Walet III  
Leonie M. Wheeler  
James & Hilda Williams  
Nancy D. Witt  
William T. Wood

#### Merchants & Businesses

C.C. Lynch & Associates  
Coastal Impressions  
Fillette, Green Shipping  
Hillyer House  
Mallini's Inc.  
Olde Community Shops

#### Clubs & Organizations

First Missionary Baptist Church  
Long Beach Historical Society  
Pass Christian Art Association

#### Membership Renewals

J. Kenneth Austin  
Wallace & Diane Farragut  
John E. Harris  
Edward V. Jurkowski  
Thelma Pulkowski

Let's keep up the good work and get 100% paid memberships in order to defray the cost of printing and postage for these Newsletters. Each paid member also receives a beautiful certificate with the Tricentennial Logo as a permanent keepsake for the 300 year Anniversary celebrations.

Please make checks payable to:

Tricentennial Committee

POB 354, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

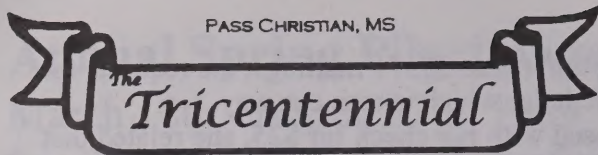
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



PASS CHRISTIAN, MS



POB 354

Pass Christian, MS 39571

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. Postage

PAID

Pass Christian, MS

Permit No. 2

**ST. PADDY'S WALKIN' PARADE**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 14 -- 1:00 P.M.**  
**SCENIC DRIVE -- VFW TO MIRAMAR**  
**"CHIPPER" MC DERMOTT, GRAND MARSHALL**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 14 -- 1PM -- ST. PADDY'S PARADE**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 30 EVENTS**

**TRICENTENNIAL CELEBRITY REENACTMENTS -- 5PM -- WEST HARBOR**

**PC HISTORICAL SOCIETY DINNER -- 6PM -- \$20 -- PCYC**

**Tricentennial Celebrity Reenactments**  
**West Harbor Parking Lot -- 5 p.m.**  
**Gov. Wm. Winter Supper Program**  
**Pass Christian Yacht Club -- \$20 -- 6 p.m.**